(c) if so, the alternative scheme intiated by Government to provide relief to the people?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHPI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Central issue Prices (CIP) of wheat at Rs. 250/quintial and for rice at Rs. 350/quintal supplied under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to below poverty line families have not been changed.

Facilities for Exchanging Soiled Notes in Gujarat

2226. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the currency notes of denominations of Rupees two and five have become soiled and people are facing difficulties in exchanging them;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the RBI made arrangements for exchanging the soiled notes of smaller denomination for coins in Ahmedabad;

(c) if so, whether similar facilities would be made available in other cities of Gujarat; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue new notes of Rupees two and Rupees five in lieu of the soiled notes and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) As a long term policy, Government has coinised notes of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 and hence printing of notes of these denominations was stopped from September' 94, January' 95 and November' 95, respectively. While the notes remain legal tender, the intention of Government is to remove these notes from circulation. Facilities are already available at all public sector banks for exchange of soiled notes for coins; the RBI has recently introduced a special drive for exchange of soiled notes of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 at all its Issue Offices. This special drive has been given wide publicity by RBI in all the national/ regional dailies, requesting for co-operation of the public to exchange such soiled notes for coins. Such exchange facilities are already available both in Ahmedabad and other cities of Gujarat.

(d) Since the Government has coinised notes of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 and printing of notes of these denominations has been stopped to release the capacity for printing of notes of higher denominations, the question of issuing fresh notes of the lower denominations does not arise.

Slump in Credit Deposit Ratio

2227. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the credit deposit ratio of the banking system has slumped considerably during the year 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) how it is going to be resulted in the financial performance of the banks during the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The credit deposit ratio (C/D) of banks during the year 1998-99 (upto February 12, 1999) was 50.6 percent as against 53.9 percent for the corresponding period of the previous year. Reserve Bank of India have reported that the decline witnessed in the C/D ratio of banking system may be mainly attributed to the lower off take of credit from the banking system, and continued growth in bank deposits.

(c) The financial performance of the banks is not adversely affected in view of the fact that banks decide to deploy their funds in their commercial judgement with a view to optimising their returns.

Impact of Shortfall in collection of Central Taxes on States

2228. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that States have to suffer in meeting their plan targets on account of shortfall in the anticipated collection of Central Taxes;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering a system to earmark lumpsum fund for the States so that their plan size is not affected due to shortfall in the collection of Central Taxes; and

(c) whether the Central Government would make up for the shortfall particularly for the special category States as their resource base is very narrow and they are not in a position to cover the shortfall through internal resource generation?

THE MINISTER OF FINACNE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) States' share in the sharable taxes and duties i.e. Income-tax, Basic Excise Duties, Additional Excise Duties in lieu of Sales Tax is based on the actual collections of these taxes and duties and paid to the States as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission. The actual collection may be higher or lower than the estimated collections in the Budget. Shortfall in a State's share in Central taxes may be only one of the several contributory factors leading to slippage in the State Plan target. Other factors could be increase in the non-Plan expenditure and/or the State's inability to meet its target or resource mobilisation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There can not be a general commitment to fill in the resource gap in its entirety.

Scooter Taxi Charges for Attending Office on Holidays

2229. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that for attending office on holidays, including Saturdays and Sundays, scooter/taxi charges are reimbursed to the Central Government employees;

(b) whether there is any monetary limit for the said expenditure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Conveyance hire charges actually paid can be reimbursed to gazetted employee who performs a journey in the public interest or a non-gazetted employee summoned to office, on holidays including Saturdays/Sundays, when official transport is not made available; subject to certain conditions such as:—

(i) No travelling allowance under TA Rules is claimed;

(ii) The total amount reimbursed in any month shall not exceed Rs. 150/-;

(iii) In the case of a non-gazetted employee, he is not granted any compensatory leave or any special remuneration; and

(iv) Conveyance hire reimbursable shall be the fare by bus, tram, local train or a combination of these if the place to be visited is connected by any of these public conveyances.

Limit on Reimbursement of Scooter/Taxi Charges

2230. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during office hours for attending to official work taxi/scooter charges are reimbursed to